



Check Us Out

City of San Diego Public Library

2003 No.1

Proposition 14 to Fund a New Branch Library for Logan Heights

In December, the State of California approved more than \$5.35 million for a new branch library in Logan Heights. "We are extremely excited about receiving this funding for a new library in Logan Heights," said Mayor Dick Murphy. "The new facility will be a major asset for the community and for the city as a whole and is another big step in completing Goal #7, to build a 21st century library system for all San Diegans." The new branch is one of 24 City libraries that will be built or improved over the next 10 years as part of a \$312.3 million, system-wide program.

Enthusiasm is high in the Logan Heights community. Within 45 minutes of hearing the news about their new library, more than 100 citizens gathered at the existing branch library for a press conference.

The new 25,000-square-foot library will replace a 3,967-square-foot facility built in 1927. The current library has inadequate infrastructure for computers, no meeting rooms to serve the community's growing population and no on-site parking. The project's architect is Claudia Escala of Martinez + Cutri Corporation. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2004 and be completed the following year. The total cost will be \$8.4 million.

The new library will be a two-level, state-of-the-art facility with the following special features: Centro Cultural/Cultural Center, which includes a 300-seat Community Room for programs, exhibits and displays; Computer Lab (35 computers with priority for students); Children and Youth Areas; Digital Reference Center with 12 computers; Seminar Room; Enhanced Spanish Language Collection; School Textbook Collection for



The imaginative design for the future Logan Heights Branch Library can be seen in this artist's rendition. The new facility is scheduled to open in 2005.

after-school and weekend access; Exhibit Area; and Public Art.

The Logan Heights project is a partnership for joint use between the City and the San Diego Unified School District. The new library will be built on a Logan Elementary School site which the school district will lease to the City for \$1 per year. The site is located between the elementary school and the Memorial Charter Middle School near the neighborhood's geographic center. Eight public schools, seven preschools, a charter school and a parochial school are all within 1.5 miles of the new branch, which will provide excellent access for students and the community.

A total of \$350 million in state funds will be distributed for library projects by the California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board through 2004 under Proposition 14, approved by voters in March 2000. The Logan Heights Library was selected out of more than 60 applications submitted for this first round of funding. Three other San Diego County libraries were funded by Proposition 14 this year: Julian, Lemon Grove and National City. There will be two additional rounds of Proposition 14 funding for which library systems can apply.

A Message from the Director

The Library has received a lot of coverage in the press in recent months regarding programs, projects and successes. For the most part, the news has been very positive, but current economic conditions have had an adverse impact on the City of San Diego's General Fund budget which is the source of the majority of the Library's operating budget.

First the good news !

⇒ In November 2002, the Mayor and City Council approved the financing plan for the Library System Construction Master Plan, committing the City to creating a library system which will be a standard of excellence in the 21st century. This ambitious 10-year plan, which enables the Mayor to realize one of the 10 goals of his first four years in office, calls for an investment of \$312.3 million for 24 library projects, including the New Main Library.

⇒ In December 2002, the state California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board approved funding under Proposition 14 of more than \$5.35 million for a new branch library in Logan Heights, one of the 24 libraries that will be built as part of the system-wide program. (See front-page article.)

⇒ The Library Department received a 92 percent satisfaction rating in the most recent annual Resident Satisfaction Survey of San Diego citizens which was conducted by the Behavior Research Center in October 2002. The survey involved 603 in-depth telephone surveys to obtain statistically significant results, with a demographic mix comparable to the actual population of the City. The Library Department was recognized at the February 11, City Council meeting, along with four other City departments and programs that received a 90 percent or more satisfaction rating.

As you are aware from reports in the local news media, current economic conditions have had an adverse impact on the City of San Diego's General Fund budget. Along with other General Fund departments, the Library has been asked to save at least 3 percent of its appropriations for the current Fiscal Year 2003. For its part, the Library will defer maintenance, hold several staff positions vacant and significantly reduce the number of library materials purchased.

Fiscal Year 2004 may be even more challenging because of the potential loss of City funds due to the California State deficit and shortfalls in revenues, resulting from the slower economy.

Our commitment to the citizens of San Diego is to minimize, as much as possible, the impact of these budget problems on library services to the public and to move forward with plans for a library system for the 21st century. We look to patrons like you for support. A gift to the book fund today, will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the City of San Diego. Please consider mailing your contribution to the library using the envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

Anna Tatár



Upcoming Events

For Central Library events, call
(619) 236-5830

For local events, call individual Branch Libraries
or visit us at
www.sandiego.gov/public-library/news-events/

Check Us Out is a quarterly publication of San Diego Public Library
Library Director, Anna Tatár
Editors, Alyce Archuleta and Arian Collins

For information, call (619) 236-5800
Visit us at www.sandiego.gov/public-library/



Briefly Noted...

The March 2002 issue of *American Libraries* reported that based on 1990 Census data almost 58 percent of professional librarians will reach the age of 65 between 2005 and 2019 demonstrating that there is a tremendous need to attract people to the field of librarianship. On January 30, **San Diego Public Library hosted a Librarian Recruitment event** to inform interested staff from libraries throughout San Diego County about opportunities to attend library school. More than 60 people attended the program.

The **North Clairemont Branch Library and its patrons** celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Teddy Bear during the months of September, October and November 2002. One of the activities was a contest for ages 6 through adult to "Dress and Name a Bear" with participants' entries displayed in the library. Winners received Cub Cash donated by Build-A-Bear Workshop in Fashion Valley and a large teddy bear was donated by the Basic Brown Bear Factory in Old Town which was used as a raffle prize. Other activities included teddy bear story times, book displays, bulletin boards and a presentation about bears by animal photographer Larry Allan.



Minh-Chau Nguyen,
1st Prize, Age 6 - 12

The **San Diego Public Library's participation** in the "California Stories: Reading 'The Grapes of Wrath'" program in October 2002 was highlighted in the California Council for the Humanities newsletter for winter 2002-2003. In particular, the newsletter mentions the appearance of author TC Boyle at the Central Library and student projects at the Rancho Peñasquitos Branch.

The **"Diggin' It in Emerald Hills" paleontology class** at the Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library was featured in a story in the January 6 *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Held the fourth Saturday of every month, the class provides children a hands-on experience in finding fossils and learning about what the San Diego area was like 3 million years ago. Reservations can be made by calling (619) 527-3405.

Housing issues and programs were discussed on "Inside San Diego," City TV 24's talk show aired during the month of February. The show focused on assistance available for first-time homebuyers,

including the Library's **"Path to Homeownership Begins @ Your Library"** program.

Featured guests included Dennis Gooler, Library; Bobbie Christiansen, City's Housing Commission; and Estela Astacio, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Clark Anthony hosted.



Mission Valley Branch Library was named "Best Library Branch" and Central Library's Film Series was named "Best Free Film Series" in the *San Diego Reader's* "Best 2003" issue published December 23, 2002.

Anna Tatár, Library Director, was named among San Diego Magazine's "50 People to Watch in 2003," in the magazine's January 2003 issue. "All eyes will be on Tatar...who begins an ambitious drive to raise \$50 million in non-city funds as a show of public support" for the city's new \$312.3 million library improvement program, according to the story.

The **Wangenheim Room of Central Library**, open Monday through Saturday, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m., has an exhibit of "illuminated manuscripts," including a 13th century leaf from Paris and a manuscript Bible from 1260 (two centuries before Gutenberg).



Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

The **fifth annual Downtown Multicultural Festival 2003** was held January 18 as a Super Bowl XXXVII and Martin Luther King Jr. Day activity. Library employees Arian Collins and Irwin Magbanua spent the day handing out promotional items, library card applications and library program brochures.

In January, a new local television series debuted providing information on a variety of library services and programs at libraries throughout the San Diego region, including the City of San Diego Public Library. The first episode, **"Digging for Dollars at the Library,"** focused on investment information and **features Fran Bookheim, Social Sciences Section Supervisor at Central Library**, as one of the hosts. Watch for the series on local cable channels.

Continued on page 6...

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And a big thank you to all of our Friends' Groups!

For information on becoming a Library League member, please call (619) 238-6615.

An Open Invitation

Many people throughout San Diego generously and unselfishly donate funds and volunteer their time to assist the Library. Donated time and money enable the Library to purchase up-to-date materials, including books, DVDs, videocassettes, CDs, audiocassettes and periodical subscriptions; to upgrade and replace equipment; and to provide programs. The Library extends an open invitation to library supporters like you to join the Friends of the Library, volunteer at your local library and donate funds to ensure the continuation and improvement of essential library services.



From Page 3.

Briefly Noted...

Library staff honored...In January, Shannon Anthony, Library Clerk for the Library Design and Project Manager, and Manuela Lomeli, Library Aide at North Park Branch Library, were named **Employees of the Quarter**....Shannon for her work skills and concern for others and Manuela for her innovative method of moving an entire collection of books and the speed and accuracy of her shelving. The **Team of the Quarter** award goes to the Payroll Specialists Lorna Samuel, Ralph Vaughan and Daun Worthington who met all deadlines, willingly accepted assignments outside their routine tasks and helped each other to meet unusual challenges.

Sidney Laramie, Librarian in Special Collections, received a letter of commendation from the City Clerk's Office for her exceptional research on a project that came to the City Clerk from a citizen request to the Mayor's Office. Her work finding birth and death dates and other biographical information about San Diego Mayors from 1850 to the present will be on file in the City Clerk's Office as a permanent public record.

37th Annual Local Authors Reception

William Sannwald, Design and Development Manager for the San Diego Public Library, presented commemorative medals to 105 authors at a reception held at the Central Library on the evening of February 8. The reception marked the beginning of the Library's 37th annual Local Authors Exhibit which honors San Diego writers who published in 2003 and which took place at Central Library through the end of February. The 234 authors participating in this exhibit reflect the diversity of San Diego's population and their equally diverse interests.

One of the highlights of the evening is to announce the annual LOLA (Local Author Lifetime Achievement) award. This award was established in 1997 to honor a writer whose published work has provided significant enrichment to the San Diego community. Library Director Anna Tatár presented the 2003 award to Chet Cunningham, a prolific writer of both fiction and non-fiction work.



Chet Cunningham, winner of this year's LOLA award

Benchmark Project



Margaret Kazmer, Central Library Deputy Director; Anna Tatár, Library Director; and Jean Stewart, Children's Room Supervisor, pose with the new David Diaz illustrated bench.

As part of the citywide art project, a Library-commissioned wooden bench, featuring the work of Caldecott Medal award-winning artist David Diaz, is now on display at the Central Library. The illustrated bench is one in a series created for San Diego's Benchmark Project. As part of its participation in the project, the Library made a \$500 donation to the San Diego City College Foundation's Graphic Design scholarship fund.

The artwork on the multicolored bench features illustrations of children reading books. It is currently on exhibit in the Children's Room. Diaz also presented Central Library with a copy of his most recently illustrated book, *The Pot That Juan Built*, by Nancy Andrews-Goebel. He inscribed the book, "Best wishes to the kids at the Central Library."

Padres Baseball Box Scores



Bill Swank presents the Padres boxscore scrapbooks to Special Collections Supervisor Jane Selvar.

In January, former Padres players Randy Jones and Broderick Perkins, and former Padres broadcaster Jerry Gross and team trainer Doc Mattei attended a presentation at Central Library to give the Library a 34-volume gift of scrapbooks to enhance the San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center's collection. The volumes contain every box score in the San Diego Padres' major league history.

The scrapbooks were begun by William "Whitey" Wietelmann (1919-2002). He

played for the San Diego Padres in the Pacific Coast League from 1949-53 and coached for the Padres from 1960-66 and again from 1969-80. He also served the Padres in a variety of jobs for the next 14 years.

Wietelmann created the first scrapbook in 1969, the Padres' first year as a major league franchise, and he made one for every year through 1993. Following his death last year, Bill Swank, Bob Boynton, Andy Aguinaldo and Bob Diaz undertook the daunting task of reorganizing the deteriorating books and updating them with box scores from 1994-2002. The result is 34 binders with laminated pages containing every Padres box score from 1969-2002. Also included are various newspaper clippings, season program covers, and copies of Padres baseball cards.



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New Workstations for the I CAN! Center

Two new workstations for people with disabilities have been installed at the I CAN! Center in Central Library, one of six libraries in the country to receive the donated stations as part of the Hewlett Packard Library Technology Access initiative.

The workstations consist of ergonomic furniture, a Compaq Evo PC, a Hewlett Packard scanner and printer, Microsoft Office software and a variety of assistive technology products that address the needs of Library users with visual, hearing, mobility or learning disabilities and improve their access to the Internet, computer technology and library information. In addition, Hewlett Packard has provided training materials for Library staff and patrons.



Library patron Annie Williams tries out one of the new workstations in the I CAN! Center.

Find the Gold in the CALIFORNIA ROOM



In 1932, the Fletcher-Lovett Building, also known as the Library Lofts, was moved to its present site at Ninth Avenue and E Street. Where was the building's original location and what was the building's significance in San Diego Public Library's history?

Answer: The Fletcher-Lovett Building was constructed in 1910 on the site of the downtown Post Office (E Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenue). The building was also known as the Guymon Building. It took four months in 1932 to move the three-story 600 ton building.

The building was leased as an annex for the business offices, cataloging, and newspaper rooms of San Diego Public Library from 1928 - 1954.

Source: The Centre City Historical Site Inventory San Diego, Calif. : Centre City Development Corporation, 1989), 6. Centre City East, pt. 2., pp. 50-51

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